

POLITICO CALIFORNIA PLAYBOOK

BY JEREMY B. WHITE, CARLA MARINUCCI, ALEXANDER NIEVES AND
GRAPH MASSARA

Presented by Tobacco Free Kids

Message

From: Carla Marinucci and Jeremy B White
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Sent: 9/23/2019 1:17:06 PM
To: Jordan, Deborah
[Jordan.Deborah@epa.gov]
Subject: POLITICO California Playbook:
GASCÓN urged to seek LA DA seat
— CALIFORNIA sues TRUMP, part
60 — NEWSOM's latest climate
moves — SCHIFF: impeachment
may be needed

THE BUZZ ... FIRST IN PLAYBOOK — GASCÓN FOR LA? As

George Gascón nears the end of his tenure as San Francisco's top cop, criminal justice advocates are hoping the progressive champion will consider a transfer south, rather than a retirement.

Rumors have been swirling for months that the San Francisco district attorney has an eye on the Los Angeles DA's office — a move that would let him transplant his liberal law enforcement philosophy to a city whose law enforcement apparatus is massive, influential and persistently troubled. Now Gascón supporters are nudging him toward challenging incumbent LA District Attorney Jackie Lacey.

A "Run George Run" campaign launching today is pressuring Gascón to jump in, and it should be hard for Lacey to ignore, with a billboard going up outside of her office with an image of Gascón and language tying Lacey to "kids in prison," the death penalty and "mass incarceration." That will be accompanied by online ads in multiple newspapers' websites.

The campaign wouldn't share the identities of its members beyond Smart Justice California's Anne Irwin, but they've already raised a six figure-sum from Gascón enthusiasts and enlisted veteran California campaign hand Dan Newman, formerly of the political firm that counts Gov. **Gavin Newsom** and Sen. **Kamala Harris** among its clients. Newman said in a statement that Gascón is "an absolute hero

of the criminal justice movement" and would be an upgrade over the "disappointing incumbent of the nation's largest county."

As California has swung away from its tough-on-crime past, both in the Legislature and at the ballot box, Gascón has ensured San Francisco is in the thick of things. So we'll be keeping our eye on this race as yet another reading of the electorate's temperature at a time when reform advocates have found a voice in criminal justice policy as never before.

BUENOS DIAS, good Monday morning. Our first week of legislative recess was crammed with California politics news, mostly concerning Donald Trump's fixation on our state — we'll see if this week is any calmer.

— **QUOTE OF THE DAY:** "If the President has done what has been alleged, then he is stepping into a dangerous minefield with serious repercussions for his Administration and our democracy." **Speaker Nancy Pelosi on a bombshell story about Trump allegedly pressuring Ukraine to investigate a political rival.**

— **TWEET OF THE DAY:** U.S. Sen. **Josh Hawley @HawleyMO**, a prominent Facebook critic, on the company's latest disclosures: "And now, barely 24 hrs after insisting to my face that Facebook takes personal privacy more seriously than anything else, FB reveals potentially massive data breaches."

— **WHERE'S GAVIN?** The governor will be in New York City for the next few days for Climate Week.

A message from Tobacco Free Kids:

E-cigarettes are hooking a new generation, thanks to massive doses of nicotine and thousands of kid-friendly flavors. This public health emergency threatens decades of progress in lowering youth tobacco use. We must take flavored e-cigarettes off the market, stand up to companies like JUUL, and protect our kids. [Learn More.](#)

— **"Homeless men called Democratic donor Ed Buck 'Dr. Kevorkian.' Why did his arrest take so long?" by the LA Times' Richard Winton and James Queally:** "Buck has been the subject of protests and demands for justice since 2017, when a young man was found dead in his home of a drug overdose. Early this year, a second man was found dead inside Buck's West Hollywood apartment."

— **"Conception wasn't built to charge dozens of phones, batteries and cameras. Did this cause the blaze?" by the LA Times' Richard Winton:** Power outlets on the ship "are now the focus of an intense investigation as federal officials try to determine the cause of the worst maritime disaster in modern California history, a fire that swept through the dive boat and killed 34 people."

GOT NEWS, TIPS? Hit us up via Twitter [@amarinucci](#), [@jeremybwhite](#) or [@alexdrnieves](#), or via email: amarinucci@politico.com, jwhite@politico.com, anieves@politico.com.

— **"Adam Schiff: Impeachment 'may be the only remedy'."** by **POLITICO's Eleanor Mueller:** "Impeachment may be 'the only remedy' should a recent whistleblower complaint against President Donald Trump prove true, House Intelligence Committee Chairman Adam Schiff said Sunday."

— **NUMBER 60: "California sues Trump over auto emissions preemption,"** by **POLITICO's Alex Guillén:** "The legal salvo comes just one day after EPA and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration unveiled their joint rulemaking." (Pro link)

— **MORE FALLOUT: "California Democrats bash Trump for 'fundamental misunderstanding' of homelessness,"** by **POLITICO's Jeremy B. White:** "Dozens of Democrats in California's congressional delegation [Friday] decried President Donald Trump's heavy-handed approach to addressing the state's homelessness crisis

amid the president's frequent threats to have the federal government intervene."

— "**Pelosi backs changing the law to allow a sitting president to be indicted,**" by POLITICO's Caitlin Oprysko: "In an interview with NPR published Friday, Pelosi argued that despite a Justice Department legal opinion asserting the contrary, 'there is nothing any place that says the president should not be indicted.'"

— "**Advocacy group slams Ben Carson over reported slur of trans people,**" by POLITICO's Katy O'Donnell.

CHILE 2019: Join APEC leaders, global CEOs, visionary entrepreneurs, and thought leaders from around the world at **APEC CEO Summit Chile 2019**, the largest and most influential annual meeting of business and government leaders in the Asia-Pacific region, from November 14-16. POLITICO is a premier media partner of the summit. Learn more [HERE](#).

' PRESIDENTIAL PURSUIT

— **GARCETTI GRATEFUL:** LA Mayor **Eric Garcetti** still hasn't endorsed in the presidential, making him the most prominent California elected official to stay neutral, but he offered some props to Sen. **Bernie Sanders** after a week dominated by Trump's views on California homelessness: "We had a lot of visitors from the administration in LA this week," Garcetti tweeted, "but it was @BernieSanders who just delivered a thoughtful plan for federal action on homelessness. We need everyone in."

— "**Democratic presidential hopeful Pete Buttigieg to stump in Sacramento area next week,**" by the Sac Bee's Michael Finch II.

— "**Yang's Possibly Illegal Giveaway Shows Why We Need a Working FEC,**" former FPPC chair and state Senate hopeful Ann Ravel writes for POLITICO Mag: "Yang recently claimed that more

than 450,000 people signed up for the pilot, and that the campaign raised millions of dollars in the three days after the announcement. The problem: No one can agree on whether the campaign promotion is legal."

' CAMPAIGN MODE

— **"FDA to investigate Juul over SF ads claiming vaping is safer than cigarettes,"** by the SF Chron's Catherine Ho: "The Food and Drug Administration will investigate whether Juul is illegally claiming that vaping products are safer than cigarettes in political ads for Proposition C — the San Francisco ballot measure seeking to overturn the city's e-cigarettes sales ban — without having received the agency's authorization to make such claims."

— **TAX DEFENSE:** California may be flush with cash now, but recession warning lights and ongoing quests for more tax revenue — including an approaching brawl over Proposition 13 property tax caps — have business groups going on the defensive against new taxes. A coalition that includes the California Chamber of Commerce, the California Taxpayers Association and the National Federation of Independent Business of California is launching a campaign that is preemptively pushing back against new sales taxes, complete with a website.

' GAVINLAND

— **"High-stakes dialysis fight in Newsom's hands, with patient charity threatening to leave,"** by POLITICO Pro's Angela Hart: "A national nonprofit that funds treatment for low-income kidney failure patients is threatening to withdraw from California if Gov. Gavin Newsom signs a bill that would cap dialysis reimbursement rates, part of an escalating battle over how end-stage renal care is financed."

— **"Newsom signs executive order aimed at cutting emissions across state agencies,"** by POLITICO Pro's Debra Kahn.

' CALIFORNIA AND THE CAPITOL CORRIDOR

— **DEEP DIVE: "The hidden battle over California's new vaccine law,"** by the LATimes' Melody Gutierrez, Taryn Luna and John Myers.

— **"D.A. declines to pursue fraud case over L.A. Councilwoman Nury Martinez's fundraising,"** by the LA Times' David Zahniser and Emily Alpert Reyes.

— **"Despite climate crisis, California continues to embrace exurban sprawl,"** by the SF Chronicle's J.K. Dineen: "Some 80,000 commuters now drive between the northern end of San Joaquin County and the Bay Area, 75% of them alone in a car over Altamont Pass to jobs in places like San Jose, Fremont or Pleasanton. Their drives average 120 miles round trip."

— **"California job growth was healthy in August, but the labor force is shrinking,"** by the LA Times' Margot Roosevelt: "Employers added 34,000 positions last month — the 114th month that payrolls grew and the longest expansion in state record-keeping, state officials reported."

— **"USC President Carol Folt's daunting task: Fix a university battered by scandal,"** by the LATimes' Matt Hamilton and Harriet Ryan: "An outsider who previously ran the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Folt is the first woman to hold the post. She takes the helm as the private university is trying to recover from years of scandal that scarred its national reputation, cost hundreds of millions of dollars in court settlements and lost contributions and felled a seemingly invincible president."

— **"Another SF day. Another assault by a deranged man on our streets,"** by the SF Chronicle's Heather Knight: "Overall, violent crime in San Francisco is down, falling 14% from July 2018 to July 2019. Reports of aggravated assault dropped 11% in that time span. But anecdotally, stories of out-of-the-blue, psychotic behavior toward strangers seem to be increasing."

— "California balks at considering casino license for men with ties to Utah polygamous sect, wants to know more about their finances," by the Salt Lake Tribune's Nate Carlisle.



SILICON VALLEYLAND

— "Facebook announces 'tens of thousands' of app suspensions," by POLITICO's John Hendel: "The audit targeted apps that had access to reams of data before policies were tightened in 2014. Zuckerberg launched the probe in March of last year amid revelations that Trump-linked political data firm Cambridge Analytica had improperly obtained information on as many 87 million Facebook users."

— ZUCK IT UP: "Facebook CEO tries the quiet approach to soothing Washington," by POLITICO's Cristiano Lima and Nancy Scola: "Zuckerberg's Washington tour this week represents a new approach to politics for him: low-key, closed-door but highly solicitous of the most important players in town."

— "Inside Airbnb, Employees Eager for Big Payouts Pushed It to Go Public," by the NYTimes' Erin Griffith: "Tension has grown among a 6,000-person work force as it waits to sell company shares, people with knowledge of the situation said."

— **"The Feds Need to 'Grow a Set and Do Their Jobs,'" by Matt Laslo for Wired:** "After years of allowing Silicon Valley to regulate itself, even lawmakers admit Congress is late to wake up to the problems at hand."

— **"Oracle Founder Larry Ellison Calls Uber and WeWork 'Almost Worthless'," by Barron's' Eric J. Savitz:** "Ellison argued that while Uber raises capital to spend on gaining market share from rival Lyft (LYFT), the business they secure doesn't necessarily stay with the company. ... He mocked WeWork's assertion that it is a technology company."

NEW—POLITICO's UNITED NATIONS PLAYBOOK: The 74th Session of the United Nations General Assembly will jam some of the world's most influential leaders into four blocks in Gotham. POLITICO's man-about-town Ryan Heath will take you inside UNGA—revealing juicy details from the lighter-side of the gathering and insights into the most pressing global issues facing decision-makers today. [Sign up for U.N. Playbook.](#)

· HOLLYWOODLAND

— **"Michael Jackson Estate Denounces Leaving Neverland's Emmys Win as Lawsuit Against HBO Continues," by Slate's Matthew Phelan.**

· CANNABIS COUNTRY

— **"Cannabis industry skeptical that Newsom order will deter illegal vaping products," by POLITICO's Alexander Nieves:** "Industry leaders say that potentially dangerous products will continue to flood the market unless more communities open their doors to legal shops that are regulated by state and local officials." (Pro link)

— "Eaze Fights Back As DionyMed Stock Trading Resumes," by Green Market Report's Debra Borchardt.

' MIXTAPE

— "Teens faced life sentences, now only six years under California's new juvenile offender law," by the Palm Springs Desert Sun's Christopher Damien.

— "Prosecution fines rescinded in Mexican church leader case," by AP's Stefanie Dazio.

— "Are Sacramento drivers the worst in California? Yes — and these streets are the most dangerous," by the Sac Bee's Tony Bizjak.

— "San Francisco commercial development fees to rise by 143 percent," by the SF Business Times' Blanca Torres.

— "'There was chaos': Witnesses in court hearing recall Poway synagogue shooting," by the San Diego Union-Tribune's Pauline Repard.

— "California mountain lions dying on highways, but face an even bigger threat," by the SF Chronicle's Peter Fimrite.

' TRANSITIONS

Veronica Bonilla will be media director at the Aerospace Industries Association. She is currently press secretary to Rep. **Norma Torres** and is an Amy Klobuchar alum.

' BIRTHDAYS

TODAY: Naomi Seligman ... Gabriella Schwarz ... Julius Niyonsaba ...

WEEKEND: former Rep. **Dan Lungren** turned 73 ... Facebook's **Dara Levy** ... **Michael Masley** ... **Laurel-Manette Hanna** ... **Rita Medina** ...

Lynn Reed ... John Fishel ... Liz Leshin ... Jerry Bruckheimer is 76
... **Ethan Coen** is 62 ... **Kiki Burger**, account director at Sunshine
Sachs ...

A message from Tobacco Free Kids:

There's a public health crisis spreading across the country - and it's
small enough to fit in your kid's pocket.

E-cigarettes are hooking a new generation, thanks to Big Tobacco
tricks like slick marketing, massive doses of nicotine, and thousands of
kid-friendly flavors. Now, 5 million kids - including 1 in 4 high
schoolers - use e-cigarettes. This growing public health emergency
threatens decades of progress in lowering youth tobacco use. And it's
getting worse.

We're building a nationwide movement to confront this crisis with the
bold action our kids deserve. We must take flavored e-cigarettes off the
market, stand up to companies like JUUL, and stop this escalating
epidemic before it's too late. [Learn More.](#)

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